

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06  
DHA-02 AID-05 /067 W  
-----080416Z 104677 /20

R 072200Z JUN 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5130  
INFO USCINCSO  
DIA  
AMEMBASSY LIMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 4678

NOFORN

EO 11652: GDS1-2  
TAGS: PDIP, SHUM, PINT, CI, US  
SUBJ: US-CHILEAN RELATIONS: CHILEAN ADMIRAL FLIES HIS COLORS

REF: LIMA/USDAO IR 6 876 0148 77 JUNE 2 1977

1. LIMA/DATT REPORTED A CONVERSATION (REF IR)  
DURING A RECENT VISIT TO SANTIAGO WITH A FINIOR  
CHILEAN NAVY ADMIRAL IN WHICH THE ADMIRAL SAID  
THE FOLLOWING:

--"HE SUGGESTED THAT CHILE COULD BE EASILY  
DISSUADED FROM SUPPORTING US IN FUTURE."

--"ESTIMATED THAT ONLY 1,000 CHILEANS HAVE  
DIED IN THE CLEAN-UP OF ALLENDE EVEN THOUGH HE  
(THE ADMIRAL) KNEW OF 40,000 WHO DESERVED IT."

--"OBSERVED THAT IF THE RUMORED ASSIGNMENT  
OF A BLACK AMBASSADOR TO CHILE BECAME A REALITY,  
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CHILE WOULD ACCEPT THE MOVE AS A DIRECT, INTEN-  
TIONAL INSULT. ADDED THAT NO MATTER HOW BRILLANT,  
INTELLIGENT OR EXPERIENCED HE MIGHT BE, HE WOULD  
BE SECOND RATE IN SANTIAGO."

2. COMMENT: THE CHILEAN ADMIRAL IS IN ONE OF HIS  
NAVY'S MOST RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS, WHICH BRINGS HIM

IN CONTINUOUS CONTACT WITH EMBASSY CIVILIAN AND MILITARY OFFICERS. HE IS WELL KNOWN TO US. HE HAS STRONG FEELING ON MANY SUBJECTS, BUT IS SEEN AS SOMETHING OF A MODERATING INFLUENCE IN GOVERNMENT CIRCLES, HAS CONTACT WITH SOME GOC CRITICS, AND HAS REPORTEDLY EXPRESSED RESERVATIONS ABOUT ILLEGAL REPRESSIVE ACTIONS OF CHILEAN SECURITY FORCES.

3. THREE EXPLANATIONS FOR THE STATEMENTS MADE TO LIMA/DATT OCCUR TO US:

--THE ADMIRAL WAS VENTING HIS SPLEEN. MANY CHILEAN OFFICERS AND CIVILIAN SUPPORTERS OF THE GOVERNMENT FEEL AS STRONGLY ABOUT US POLICY AS HE.

--HE WAS TRYING TO IMPRESS HIS AMERICAN VISITOR PERSONALLY WITH THE NEED TO TREAT THE GOC MORE CAREFULLY.

--HE WAS ACTING WITH THE APPROVAL OF HIS SUPERIORS TO GET A SPECIFIC MESSAGE ACROSS TO THE USN, AND/OR THE USG.

4. OUR INITIAL REACTION WAS TO PASS THE REMARKS OFF AS EMOTIONAL AND PERSONAL, HOWEVER UNFORTUNATE THEY WERE. BUT WE NOW TEND TO CREDIT THE COMMENT OF THE MISSION NAVAL OFFICER WHO KNOWS HIM BEST THAT THE ADMIRAL IS NORMALLY TOO DISCIPLINED A MEMBER OF THE NAVY HIERARCHY TO SHOOT OFF THIS WAY ON HIS OWN. HE MAY  
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HAVE CHECKED OUT WHAT TO SAY (PERHAPS WITH NAVY CINC/ JUNTA MEMBER ADMIRAL MERINO) AND SAID IT WITH DELIBERATION. MOREOVER, HE KNEW HIS REMARKS WOULD BE REPORTED.

5. WHATEVER THEIR MOTIVATION, THE ADMIRAL'S STATEMENTS ARE STRIKING TESTIMONY TO THE DIFFERING WORLD VIEWS WHICH SEPARATE AMERICANS AND THE MILITARY LEADERSHIP OF CHILE. THESE DIFFERING VIEWS INEVITABLY HAVE BEEN REFLECTED IN THE PRESENT POOR STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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